

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 11, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 899

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 60811 of, and to add and repeal Section 60811.4 of, the Education Code, relating to academic content standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 899, as amended, Weber. Academic content standards: English language development standards.

(1) Existing law requires each school district that has one or more pupils who are English learners and, to the extent required by federal law, each county office of education and each charter school, to assess the English language development of each of those pupils upon initial enrollment in order to determine the level of proficiency of those pupils, and thereafter to assess each of those pupils annually until the pupil is redesignated as English proficient.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for English language development for pupils whose primary language is a language other than English. Existing law further requires

that these standards be comparable in rigor and specificity to the standards for English language arts.

This bill would additionally require these standards to be comparable in rigor and specificity to the standards for mathematics and science.

(2) Existing law, which is to be repealed on July 1, 2013, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the state board, to update, revise, and align the English language development standards adopted pursuant to existing law to the state board-approved academic content standards for English language arts, as provided.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before January 1, 2015, to recommend modifications to the English language development standards to link with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics and science for adoption by the state board. The bill would require the Superintendent, in consultation with the state board, to convene a group of experts in English language instruction, curriculum, and assessment, as provided, to meet those requirements and to review the mathematics and science academic content standards to identify those standards that correspond to the English language development standards. The bill would require the Superintendent to hold a minimum of 2 public meetings in order for the public to provide input regarding any modifications to the English language development standards.

The bill would require the state board, on or before August 1, 2015, to adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for the English language development standards to correspond with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics and science, as specified. *The bill would require the state board to ensure that any modifications to the English language development standards adopted by the state board are incorporated into the appropriate mathematics and science curriculum frameworks.*

The bill would require that funding be provided in the annual Budget Act or another statute before these provisions could be implemented. The bill would make its provisions inoperative on July 1, 2016.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 60811 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

1 60811. The state board shall approve standards for English
2 language development for pupils whose primary language is a
3 language other than English. The standards shall be comparable
4 in rigor and specificity to the standards for English language arts
5 adopted pursuant to Section 60605.8, the standards for mathematics
6 adopted pursuant to Sections 60605.8 and 60605.11, and the
7 standards for science adopted pursuant to Section 60605.85.

8 SEC. 2. Section 60811.4 is added to the Education Code, to
9 read:

10 60811.4. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, the Superintendent
11 shall recommend to the state board modifications to the English
12 language development standards, adopted pursuant to Section
13 60811.3, to link with the academic content standards for
14 mathematics adopted by the state board pursuant to Sections
15 60605.8 and 60605.11 and the academic content standards for
16 science adopted by the state board pursuant to Section 60605.85.
17 If the state board modifies the English language development
18 standards to link with the academic content standards for
19 mathematics and science, it shall explain, in writing, to the
20 Governor and the Legislature the reasons for the modification. The
21 Superintendent's recommendations and the state board's actions
22 shall assist schools in the implementation and application of
23 English language development standards in the mathematics and
24 science subject areas.

25 (b) In meeting the requirements of subdivision (a), the
26 Superintendent, in consultation with the state board, shall convene
27 a group of experts in English language instruction, curriculum,
28 and assessment, including individuals who have a minimum of
29 three years of demonstrated experience instructing English learners
30 in the classroom at the elementary or secondary level. The experts
31 shall review the mathematics and science academic content
32 standards to identify those standards that correspond to the English
33 language development standards. The Superintendent shall ensure
34 that members of the group include, but are not necessarily limited
35 to, individuals who are schoolsite principals, school district or
36 county office of education administrators overseeing programs
37 and support for English learners, personnel of teacher training
38 schools at institutions of higher education, and curriculum and
39 instructional specialists with English learner experience. At least

1 a majority of the members of the group of experts shall be currently
2 employed public schoolteachers.

3 (c) Prior to completing the requirements of subdivision (a), the
4 Superintendent shall hold a minimum of two public meetings
5 pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9
6 commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of
7 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the
8 public to provide input regarding any modifications recommended
9 pursuant to this section.

10 (d) (1) On or before August 1, 2015, the state board shall adopt
11 or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for the English
12 language development standards adopted pursuant to Section
13 60811.3 to correspond with the state board-approved academic
14 content standards for mathematics adopted pursuant to Sections
15 60605.8 and 60605.11 and the state board-approved academic
16 content standards for science approved pursuant to Section
17 60605.85.

18 (2) *The state board shall ensure that any modifications to the*
19 *English language development standards adopted by the state*
20 *board are incorporated into the appropriate mathematics and*
21 *science curriculum frameworks.*

22 (e) This section shall not be implemented unless funds are
23 appropriated by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or another
24 statute for its purposes.

25 (f) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and
26 as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
27 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or
28 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.